**Northlake CAC Meeting Minutes**

**November 26, 2019   5:00pm**

**Gift of Grace Lutheran Church**

CAC: Jami Fecher, Jordan Schwartz, Ed Mast

Residents: Zach Lake, Hana Lake, Laurie Campbell, Alex Finch, Sean Smith

Nickelsville: Scott Morrow

LIHI: Josh Castle, Jose Ruiz

Guests:  Laura Lee Sturm, Scott Greenstone

**NORTHLAKE RESIDENTS REPORT:**

*[presented at meeting by residents and then emailed by Nickelsville staff:]*

**I.  CENSUS** since last CAC Meeting

23 ADULTS.  14 Men   9 Women  6 Couples

2 Children 2 Families 2 Pets

No police calls.

10 Move ins

8 Move Outs

The couple at camp who received a Voucher for housing four months ago moved out last week!

Due to bed bug problems, and problems getting them treated with LIHI, some people haven’t been able to stay in their Tiny Houses.  They have instead used the “turtle” while the problem is remedied.  The ‘Turtle’ isn’t being used now.

**II. DAILY ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE**

The Drum Circle continues on Tuesday nights.

Camp Meetings continue every Monday at 6 PM

Bus Tickets are being Issued Daily

 **Clarification of Visitor Policy:**

Visitors are welcome.  Because LIHI is attempting to occupy Nickelsvilles, we can only let the LIHI Case Manager in, and LIHI repair people and LIHI bed bug chemical treatment specialists.  Our staff needs to be notified at least a day or more before these visits.  We will not set up appointments ‘on the fly’ at CAC meetings because there is too big of chance of a misunderstanding.  HSD Staff should make appointments, because they have been supporting LIHI takeover efforts.

We don’t like having to keep our gates shut, but it is necessary.   The gates being shut makes us secure from the most immediate threat – a LIHI Occupation.

**III. FOOD**

University Food Bank is bringing us food every Wednesday, and we can specify what kinds of things we want.  It includes milk, which is outstanding.  The Ballard Ladies come last Saturday of the month.

The University Sunrise Rotary Club keeps sending over breakfast once a week.  A family brought Burritos last week.

We appreciate very much the food from Amazon, and the dedicated Volunteers who bring it.   The delivery last Saturday was great.  It included Gatorade, meat, eggs, soup, and ready to eat meals.

We would like to clarify again that Nickelsville did ask for a daily meal be provided at all the Nickelsville Camps two years ago.  To date this has not been done at Northlake, which does not receive any daily meal, or any other regular support from Operation Sack Lunch.  Over at Othello they did not get a daily meal from LIHI and Operation Sack Lunch until they were occupied on April 8.

**IV. COMMUNICATION WITH LIHI**

LIHI Case Managers returned to Northlake last week!  That’s great – there was no good reason why the Case Manager ever left.  It is false that we barred the case manager.

We did nothing that would warrant him not coming.

We’d wanted a case manager as soon as possible, and wanted to know who it was before they show up – that’s common courtesy.

Unfortunately, one of the Case Managers showed up unannounced before all this was straightened out and got into a little slanging match with a Northlake Resident.  This is why we wanted to know when the Case Manager was coming – to avoid this.

 **SUPPLIES AND LIHI**

We are happy to report that the washer and dryer were replaced.  The bed bug sprayer has come more often.  Supplies have gotten to us.

Our staff person will send in another request on Friday – he missed the last supply request date.

 **BED BUGS**

We will keep cooperating with LIHI on bed bug treatments, but they need to communicate through email to staff@nickelsville.works.  We must insist on that so there are no misunderstandings.

The chemical exterminator for LIHI has now come out several times.  There is one Tiny House whose occupant didn’t understand what he needs to do.  He finally moved out, without it ever really being solved.

We still wish that LIHI would tell us in writing how to prepare for bed bugs, and how to prevent bed bugs.  The person, for example, who keeps preparing wrong has a friend who comes and helps him.  If his friend saw written instructions on how the preparation worked, he could then help the resident better.

We also keep asking for materials that would prevent the bed bugs to start with, and LIHI doesn’t give them to us – they include requests for diatomaceous earth and bed bug traps.  We would also like to know, in writing, what chemicals are being used.  We’ve been asking for written information since February.

 *[Note: since LIHI will stop offering pest control services after December 9,*

 *residents and Nickelsville staff confirm that Nickelsville plans to take over pest*

 *control after that time.]*

 **LIHI RESPONSE TO HSD PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT INSTRUCTIONS.**

The day of the October Northlake CAC Meeting – October 29 - three or more men LIHI tried to force their way into Northlake and were prevented.  They had letters saying that the Village was closing and that HSD would be back on Monday.

On Monday November 4th at 1:30 LIHI and HSD Staff showed up, even after we told them that we wouldn’t let in a big group of them.

They made a big show out on the sidewalk, and talked to some people about moving out.

LIHI wrote us several letters, finally telling us that we would be arrested if we were still on the premises on December 9.  They first told us to go to a Dunn Lumber Office for Case Management.  Then they finally said that they would come back and do case management in the Tiny House reserved at Northlake for that.

The have really only been offering lateral transfers to LIHI Corporate Tiny House Villages, to Martin Court that isn’t permanent housing, and bus tickets out of town.  Some people are afraid and stressed out, and are taking these offers – that’s their right!

We have said over and over we would do what our written agreements said we’d do with HMIS if LIHI asks our staff person to resume this – but they hadn’t asked.    A LIHI staff person finally asked our staff person for a list of residents, and it was provided to them within the day.

We can’t be blamed if they are trying to get things that we haven’t agreed however

HSD Staff came by on Monday November 4 also.  They hung out on the side walk too, after Adrienne Easter tried to shove her way in.

Jason Johnson sent a letter to some City Council people on November 20, repeating many false things.

**V. FUTURE PLANS**

On November 18, the weekly camp meeting reaffirmed and wrote down the following day three key points in response to what LIHI has been threatening:

1)  The Village will remain open past December 9

2)  The Village is not refusing to let people move out to what they choose.

3)  Any open houses will be filled as soon as they are available.  So many need them who have nothing.

This resolution fits in to what we would like to see in the future.  We have asked the Mayor in writing, and testified to the City Council, that LIHI should be found in violation of their Services Agreement at Northlake and fired.  That has happened.

We would then like a Religious Encampment Sponsor – and we know that Gift of Grace Lutheran Church would be willing – to take over the camp sponsorship.

**VI. VISITS TO CITY HALL**

Norhtlake Residents have visited Aides to Sally Bagshaw, Kshama Sawant and Theresa Mosqueda.  We talked to Councilperson Herbold directly.

We have also talked at several City Council Budget Meetings.

City Councilpeople asked Deputy Mayor Moseley to meet and discuss the offer of Gift of Grace Lutheran Church to be a religious encampment sponsor – like Fauntleroy United Church of Christ and Camp Second Chance, or Restoration Ministries and Georgetown.

Deputy Mayor Moseley did meet with Pastor Fecher, but Deputy Moseley’s concerns have not been allayed yet.

**DEATHS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE SINCE THE LAST CAC MEETING**

Women in Black stood on November 13th for 5 more deaths of homeless people outside in King County.  It is now up to 99 homeless people that we know of that have died either outside or by violence in King County.

**CASE MANAGER’S REPORT:**

*[emailed by Will Uhlig:]*

Four clients have moved to another tiny house village.

One client is working with a case manager on relocation to live with family out of state.

Four clients expressed interest in specific tiny house villages.

Two of those clients would like to move by the end of November.

One client expressed, “I would like to wait it out.”

 *[Note: resident corrected this, stated that he said “wait and see”.]*

Case managers have not made contact with three units.

Two units are uninhabitable due to bed bugs. LIHI’s pest control has visited twice in the past two weeks.

On November 15th while helping a client move to another tiny house village, a Northlake client told me, “You cannot be here!”

 *[Note: this was disputed by resident.]*

One client was offered transitional housing and is deciding if they would like to accept.

Nickelsville listed one client that use to live at another tiny house village on a recent Northlake roster.

Three clients wish to not talk to LIHI staff.

Two clients have asked case managers to help find them a lot space for a mobile home.

**OTHER TOPICS:**

• Josh stated concern that vacant tiny houses were being filled since LIHI has not given permission.

• Josh reiterated that four case managers are ready to work with residents to find alternate housing or shelter. Josh thanked everyone for testifying at City Council meetings, reports that every tiny house village was represented.

• Jami reported on the meeting with Deputy Mayor David Moseley to discuss Gift of Grace Lutheran Church as sponsor of Northlake Village under the religious ordinance. Gift of Grace would provide liability insurance. Several obstacles were discussed:

 1. The City has not budgeted for continued operating costs.

 2. The tiny houses belong to LIHI.

 3. Seattle City Light charges over $5000 per month for the land parcel, and that is no longer in HSD’s budget.

Solutions were discussed, including:

 1: Nickelsville staff have confirmed that they will not need to ask for operating costs from the City, since they are confident they can raise the funds as they have done for years. Costs would be approx. $80,000 annually.

 2. Nickelsville is prepared to build new tiny houses as necessary, though it is also the case that LIHI staff have said in other contexts that they have plenty of extra tiny houses in storage, so it would appear simple for LIHI to leave the tiny houses in place until Nickelsville replaces them.

 3. City or Seattle City Light could waive the rent; City could pay the rent; community could raise the funds to pay the rent. (Jordan asked: why is rent $5000 per month for that small parcel of land? Jordan will research this.)

Deputy Mayor Moseley promised to have an answer by Dec. 6.

• CAC continuing?

Jami and Ed met with Northlake residents and asked if residents wanted CAC to continue in some form after December 9. Residents voted yes, and may choose to reconfigure and reconstitute the CAC in some form at a future time. For the time being, **all seven members of the current CAC are invited to continue as CAC. The three CAC members present set a next meeting date of December 17, 5:00 pm at Gift of Grace Church.**  If LIHI and HSD carry out their eviction and arrests, this may change.

**NEXT CAC MEETING if there is one:**

**Tuesday December 17**

**5:00 pm**

**Gift of Grace Lutheran Church**

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